

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-02 INR-10 INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3092

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, SW

SUBJECT: FORSMARK 3, SWEDEN'S ELEVENTH REACTOR

1. THE COALITION GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A COMPROMISE ON THE CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF SWEDEN'S ELEVENTH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, FORSMARK 3. MINISTRY OF ENERGY OLOF JOHANSSON DECLARED, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 15, THAT (A) CONSTRUCTION WORK MAY CONTINUE "AT A LOW PACE," (B) THE STATE POWER BOARD MAY USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1977 TO JUNE 30, 1978 AND THIS AMOUNT MUST LAST UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1979, (C) THE STATE POWER BOARD MAY NOT LOAN MONEY TO FORSMARK POWER COMPANY, OWNER OF FORSMARK 3, (D) MONEY MAY NOT BE USED FOR COMPONENTS WHICH ARE SOLELY FOR FORSMARK 3, AND (E) THE REDUCED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IS A WAY TO RETAIN FREEDOM OF NEGOTIATION WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE CAPITAL TIE-UP. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE DECISION "MAY BE SEEN SIMULTANEOUSLY AS THE BEGINNING OF A DECOMMISSIONING PHASE" FOR FORSMARK 3.

2. COMMENT. THE COMPROMISE ON CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF FORSMARK 3 WAS NOT UNEXPECTED. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE LIBERAL AND MODERATE PARTY MEMBERS ARE SATISFIED
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WITH THE DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE ELEVENTH REACTOR. ANDERS WIJLMAN, MODERATE PARTY, COMMENTED THAT HE WAS PLEASED THE MODERATES' VIEW POINTS WERE HEARD AND THAT THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS FOR FORSMARK 3 WOULD NOT SUFFER FROM THE DECISION. THE COALITION GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT POSTPONES A FINAL DECISION ON FORSMARK 3 UNTIL THE FALL WHEN THE WHOLE

ENERGY POLICY ISSUE WILL BE DECIDED BY THE PARLIAMENT.

3. IT APPEARS THAT THE COALITION GOVERNMENT MAY BE ABLE TO AGREE ON TEN NUCLEAR REACTORS, I.E. SIX IN OPERATION, 1 READY TO LOAD, AND THREE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

4. THE FORSMARK 3 DECISION IS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS BECAUSE "A RENEWED AND MORE SECURE FUTURE" FOR THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY OGIS TIED TO THE DECISION ON FORSMARK 3. INDEED, THE SVENSKA DAGBLADET'S EDITORIAL ON FEBRUARY 16 REMARKED THAT DECISIONS OF THE SORT "BEGIN TO DESTROY CONDITIONS FOR ONE OF OUR FUTURE INDUSTRIES."
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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